

Having thus described the invention, it is claimed as:

1. A coin bank comprising a housing having a coin receiving area, a coin sorting area, and a coin storage area for storing sorted coins, said storage area including a drawer displaceable relative to said housing between retracted and extended positions, and a semi-automatic opening device for displacing said drawer from said retracted position to said extended position.

2. The coin bank of claim 1, wherein said opening device includes an electric motor.

3. The coin bank of claim 2, further including a control circuit for operating said motor to sequentially extend and retract said drawer relative to said housing.

4. The coin bank of claim 3, wherein said control circuit includes a manually operable switch for initiating operation of said motor for displacement of said drawer from one of the retracted and extended positions toward the other, and a limit switch to de-energize the motor when the drawer reaches the other position.

5. The coin bank of claim 1, further including a release member for disabling said opening device, whereby said drawer is manually displaceable from said retracted position to said extended position.

6. A coin bank comprising a housing having a coin receiving area, a coin sorting area and a coin storage area for storing sorted coins, said coin storage area including a drawer movably mounted in said housing, a drive unit mounted on said drawer for displacement therewith, and a coupling between said drive unit and said housing and interengaging with said drive unit for operation thereof to displace said drawer between a retracted position and an extended position.

7. The coin bank of claim 6, wherein said coupling is selectively displaceable relative to said drive unit to release said drawer for manual displacement between the retracted and extended positions.

8. The coin bank of claim 6, wherein said drive unit includes a cam rotatably mounted on said drawer and interengaging with said coupling for rotation of the cam to displace the drawer.

9. The coin bank of claim 8, wherein said cam includes a pin and said coupling includes a slot receiving said pin.

10. The coin bank of claim 9, wherein said coupling is displaceable relative to said housing to disengage from said pin.

11. The coin bank of claim 10, wherein said coupling includes a lever pivotally mounted on said housing.

12. The coin bank of claim 6, wherein said drive unit includes a cam and an electric motor for driving the cam, said cam interengaging with said coupling for displacing said drawer between the retracted and extended positions when said motor is energized.

13. The coin bank of claim 12, further including a control circuit for said motor, said control circuit including a manually operable switch for initiating operation of the motor for displacement of the drawer between the retracted and extended positions thereof and a limit switch for de-energizing the motor in each of the retracted and extended positions of the drawer.

14. The coin bank of claim 13, wherein said cam includes a pin and said coupling includes a lever pivotally mounted on said housing for displacement between first and second positions relative to said pin, said lever having a slot receiving said pin in said first position, whereby rotation of said cam displaces said pin along said slot to displace the drawer relative to

5 the housing, said lever in said second position disengaging said slot from said pin, whereby said drawer is manually displaceable relative to said housing.

15. A coin bank comprising, a housing having a coin receiving area, a coin sorting area, and a coin storage area for storing sorted coins, said storage area comprising a coin tube support displaceable between retracted and extended positions relative to said housing, a plurality of coin tubes selectively held on said coin tube support for holding sorted coins, and
5 a semi-automatic opening device positioned between said housing and said coin tube support for selectively displacing said coin tube support from a retracted position to an extended position.

16. The coin bank of claim 15 wherein said opening device comprises a motor.

17. The coin bank of claim 16, wherein said opening device includes a cam mounted on one of said tube support and said housing and a cam track mounted on another of said tube support and said housing, said cam and said cam track interengaging for displacing said coin tube support between said retracted and extended positions in response to operation of said
5 motor.

18. The coin bank of claim 15, wherein said coin tube support includes a bottom wall displaceable between said retracted and extended positions, a coin tube base mounted on said bottom wall for displacement therewith and for displacement relative thereto, said coin tubes being mounted on said tube base.

19. The coin bank of claim 15, further comprising a member on said housing for releasing said coin tube support for manual displacement between said retracted position and said extended position.

20. The coin bank comprising a housing having a coin receiving area, a coin sorting area and a coin storage area for storing sorted coins, a coin support for holding sorted coins and a drive mechanism for moving said coin support between retracted and extended positions in relation to said housing wherein said drive mechanism includes an electric motor and a control

5 circuit for said electric motor including a control switch for initiating operation of said electric motor for displacement of said coin support from said retracted to said extended position.

21. The coin bank of claim 20 further comprising a limit switch for interrupting operation of said electric motor when said coin tube support reaches said extended position.

22. The coin bank of claim 20, wherein said control switch is operable in said extended position of said coin support to initiate operation of said electric motor for displacing said coin support from said extended position to said retracted position.

23. The coin bank of claim 20, wherein said drive mechanism includes a pin supported on said coin support for rotation about a vertical axis spaced from the pin, wherein said electric motor rotates the pin about said axis, and a release member on said housing having an elongate slot extending transverse to and slidably receiving said pin, whereby rotation of said pin about said axis displaces said coin tube support between said retracted and extended positions.

24. The coin bank of claim 23, wherein said release member includes a lever pivotally mounted on said housing for displacement relative thereto between engaged and released positions relative to said pin, said coin support in said released position of said lever being manually displaceable between said retracted and released positions.

25. The coin bank of claim 24 further comprising a spring biasing said lever toward the engaged position thereof, said pin slidably engaging said lever against the bias of said spring and moving into engagement with said slot in response to manual displacement of said coin support from said extended to said retracted position.

26. A coin bank comprising a housing having a coin receiving area, a coin sorting area and a coin storage area for storing sorted coins, said storage area comprising a coin tube support displaceable between retracted and extended positions relative to said housing and a drive mechanism for selectively displacing said coin tube support between said retracted and

5 extended positions, wherein said drive mechanism includes an electric motor and a control
circuit for said electric motor including a control switch for initiating operation of said electric
motor for displacement of said coin tube support from said retracted to said extended position
and from said extended to said retracted position and a limit switch to interrupt operation of said
electric motor when said coin tube support reaches each of the retracted and extended positions
10 thereof.

27. The coin bank of claim 26, wherein said coin tube support includes a bottom wall
displaceable between said retracted and extended positions, a coin tube base mounted on said
bottom wall for displacement therewith and for pivotal displacement relative thereto, said coin
tube being on said coin tube base, a ramp mounted on said housing, and said coin tube base
5 interengaging with said ramp for pivotally displacing said coin tube base between first and
second angular positions relative to said bottom wall in response to movement of said bottom
wall between said retracted and extended positions.

28. The coin bank of claim 27, further comprising a lever pivotally mounted to said
base, and a spring biasing said lever toward one end position thereof.

29. The coin bank of claim 28, further comprising a pin operatively connected to said
motor, said pin slidably engaging a slot of said lever, as biased by said spring.

30. The coin bank of claim 26, wherein said pin is located on a cam plate rotatable
about an axis by said motor, said cam plate operating said limit switch to interrupt operation of
said motor.